

COVID-19 Guidance for Secondary Care Settings

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Scope of the guidance and target audience

This guidance is to support those working in secondary care settings (e.g. hospitals) with general public health measures required to manage the spread of COVID-19. This guidance covers key issues for secondary care from a health protection perspective.

This should be read together with the [IPC addendum on secondary care](#).

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7. Infection prevention and control in secondary care settings

7.1 7.1. Infection prevention and control and PPE

Staff in secondary care settings should refer to the [COVID-19 IPC addendum](#) within the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (NIPCM) for all IPC guidance relating to care provision in the secondary care setting.

7.2 7.2. Staff caring for COVID-19 patients

Everyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 is encouraged to get tested as part of the Scottish Government's '[Test and Protect](#)' approach to interrupting chains of viral transmission. Priority testing is available for key workers. Care staff can access testing either by self-referral or through an employer or organisation. Information on how to book a test is available on [NHS inform](#).

Staff with underlying health conditions that put them at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, should discuss this with their line manager or local Occupational Health service. [The COVID-19 Occupational Risk Assessment Guidance](#) should be used to support managers to undertake an individual occupational risk assessment. Pregnant staff should also seek advice from their line manager or local Occupational Health service. Further information for at-risk or pregnant healthcare workers can be found in [Guidance for NHS Scotland workforce Staff and Managers on Coronavirus](#).

Staff who come into contact with a COVID-19 patient or a patient suspected of having COVID-19 should follow the guidance on [management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care setting](#). This guidance includes advice for staff who are notified that they are a contact of a co-worker who is a confirmed case. Staff should follow national [guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#) (household isolation) if they or a member of their household develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This means that anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or a COVID-19 diagnosis (whether or not they have symptoms) and anyone else living in the same household should follow the guidance for households with coronavirus infection on [NHS inform](#).

Staff who develop symptoms and have a negative PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 should be managed in accordance with the flowchart for return to work following a SARS-CoV-2 test at [management of exposed staff and patients in health and social care setting](#).

Staff who have had confirmed COVID-19 and have since recovered must continue to follow the IPC measures including appropriate PPE. Staff with confirmed/suspected COVID-19 should not return to work until symptoms resolve, with the exception of cough and loss of/ change in taste and smell, as these symptoms may persist for several weeks and is not an indication of